DP

UNITED
NATIONS

Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1992/SR.7
20 February 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Organizational meeting for 1992

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 14 February 1992, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. BREITENSTEIN (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (continued) (DP/1992/L.10)

1. Mr. MUNTEANU (Romania), Vice-President, said that the informal consultations on the rationalization of the work of the Governing Council had resulted in draft decision DP/1992/L.10. The draft decision submitted by Germany and the United States of America in June 1991 had served as a basis for the discussions, in which representatives from all regional groups had participated. Paragraph 1 listed the subjects to be included in the Administrator's annual report; they would be considered at the high-level segment to be held from 11 to 13 May 1992 at Geneva. Paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 dealt with subjects to be considered on an annual, biennial and triennial basis, respectively. Paragraphs 7 and 8, which listed subjects to be considered at the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions, were not intended to be exhaustive. If a report had been requested for either of those sessions, it would be considered at the appropriate session whether it was listed in those paragraphs or not. Furthermore, there had been a clear understanding that any new items added to the agenda of the thirty-ninth session would be considered without written reports, since it would not be possible to prepare and process such documentation in a timely manner. Paragraphs 10 and 11 of the draft decision focused on continued efforts to streamline the agenda and work of the Council.

2. The text of the first 12 operative paragraphs represented a delicate balance that had been achieved because all members had demonstrated flexibility and a readiness to compromise. Although paragraph 13 had not been discussed owing to lack of time, it had been agreed in principle that the paragraph should be included in the draft decision.

3. Mr. ELLIS (United Kingdom) proposed that the phrase "and volume" should be inserted in paragraph 12 after the word "number". Furthermore, in order to make the wording of paragraph 13 more precise, he proposed that the word "non-essential" should be deleted and that the phrase "which call for no change in, and" should be inserted after the word "decisions".

4. Mr. GEBREMEDHIN (Observer for Ethiopia), referring to the proposed amendment to paragraph 12, noted that the General Assembly had already issued regulations concerning the volume of documentation. The proposed amendment might complicate the work of the Governing Council, which would have difficulty dealing with the question of volume of reports on the penultimate day of its sessions. That question had created problems in the past.

5. With regard to paragraph 13, his delegation supported the deletion of the word "non-essential", but felt that the second proposed amendment was unnecessary.

6. Mr. KOCH (Canada) said that his delegation had proposed the inclusion of paragraph 13 in order to reduce the number of decisions adopted by the Council and to lessen costs. Every year, the Council adopted decisions on matters that were not directly related to the work of UNDP, had no effect on the Programme's operations and no budgetary implications, and did not reach the international community.

7. Mr. GEBREMEDHIN (Observer for Ethiopia) said that he could now support both of the proposed amendments to paragraph 13, but requested the Secretariat to ensure that the clarification made by the representative of Canada was reflected in the appropriate Governing Council document.

8. The PRESIDENT said that there seemed to be general agreement on draft decision DP/1992/L.10 as orally amended.

9. Draft decision DP/1992/L.10, as orally amended, was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL: VENUE (continued) (DP/1992/L.8)

10. Mr. MUNTEANU (Romania) Vice-President, said that during the informal consultations on the question of the venue of the Governing Council, several delegations had requested further information, and it had been agreed that the subject would be reviewed at the thirty-ninth session. Those views were reflected in draft decision DP/1992/L.8, which he recommended for adoption.

11. Draft decision DP/1992/L.8 was adopted.

12. Mr. SHOJI (Japan) said that the information referred to in paragraph 2 of draft decision DP/1992/L.8 should be provided sufficiently in advance to enable the Council to formulate any views it might have on such information.

13. The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat had taken note of the statement made by the representative of Japan.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN 1992 (continued)

14. The PRESIDENT recalled that, when the Council had last discussed the item under consideration, it had requested the secretariat to revise the agenda and tentative schedule of work for the Council's thirty-ninth session in the light of comments made by delegations and the decision adopted by the Council on the rationalization of its work.

15. Mr. ELLIS (United Kingdom) said that the time allotted for consideration of the United Nations Volunteers programme should remain fixed so that the persons scheduled to participate in that discussion would be able to attend.

16. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Council) assured the representative of the United Kingdom that the item in question would be considered as scheduled.

17. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Council wished to adopt the revised tentative schedule of work for the thirty-ninth session.

18. It was so decided.

19. The PRESIDENT recalled that the subject for the high-level debate would be "the annual report of the Administrator and the priority areas identified therein".

20. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Council) said that the priority areas to be identified in the Administrator's 1991 report were environment, HIV/AIDS, women in development, national execution, agency support costs, coordination of operational activities, technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), and economies in transition.

21. Mrs. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America) said that it would be very helpful to have the Administrator's report as early as possible.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.